

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 40-41 have been cancelled.

The claims have been amended to delete the recitation of "ageing degradation." This is believed to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Additionally, Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to further recite a basic output characteristic correction device that corrects the basic output characteristic of the fuel cell based on the detected output current and the detected output voltage of the fuel cell. Basis for this is found in paragraphs [0041] - [0042] and Figs. 2-3 in the specification.

Claims 1-13, 40 and 41 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated or rendered obvious by Harashima. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amended claims. In particular, while Harashima discloses a change in the basic output characteristic of the fuel cell based on the temperature thereof (col. 5, lines 10-23), there is no teaching therein of the newly recited feature that the basic output characteristic is corrected based on the detected output current and the detected output voltage of the fuel cell. The amended claims therefore define over this reference.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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